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Rusk Hampers 'Muzzling' Probe

BY ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

The Senate committee investigating the muzzling of military officers is running into a frustrating stone wall in obtaining any information from the State Department.

Secretary Rusk is flatly refusing to throw light on three major issues under scrutiny:

Identity of the State Department officials who are censoring military speeches to ensure they are in line with the administration's foreign policy.

Directives and policy guidance papers dealing with the assignment of State Department officials as "advisers" to top military commanders. Also the names of these political advisers.

A "U.S. military position paper" that the State Department reputedly recently sent to NATO allies without consulting the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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Rusk's ban on supplying the Senate probers with answers to these significant questions covers all State Department employers in the United States and abroad.

The committee, headed by Sen. Stennis (D-Miss.) discovered this when its investigators sought to interrogate department officials both in and out of Washington. In every instance the result was the same. "We are under explicit orders not to talk."

Two countermeasures are under consideration by the probers:

To take the matter directly to President Kennedy with a request that he overrule Rusk; subpoena State Department officials in an effort to induce them to talk.

Committeemen frankly admit the main value of these moves is psychological.

It is deemed highly unlikely the President is not aware of the attitude toward the Senate committee. In tak-

ing that stand, the State Department head is acting on authority given him in an unannounced executive order earlier this year.

Under this backstage directive, the State Department was designated as the agency to carry out policies laid down by the National Security Coun-



Stennis

cil, over which the President personally presides.

Obviously, the council decided to require military officers to submit their addresses for approval, to assign political advisers to top commanders and to send the NATO allies a statement on this country's "military position" — and the State Department is executing those decisions.

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Also, while congressional investigators can subpoena government officials, there is no way to compel them to testify — if the President orders them not to.

However, the Senate probers are not wholly without means. They already have considerable information and are on the trail of other jolting disclosures that may require the State Department to make explanations.

A general idea of the "U.S. military position paper" has been ascertained by the Joint Chiefs never seen it and learned about it from NATO

sources. The Senate investigators want to know why the State Department ignored the Joint Chiefs on this matter.

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Defense Secretary McNamara either spoke too soon or changed his mind about the resignation of Maurice H. Klein, the National Security Agency official responsible for hiring those two cryptographers who defected to Russia — where they are now presumably breaking codes for the Reds.

In answer to a press question, McNamara stated Klein was quitting as assistant NSA director for "personal reasons."

But he is still on the secret agency's payroll at the same \$18,000 salary.

However, Klein now has a different title. He is "assistant" to Dr. Louis W. Tordella, deputy NSA director. This change in jobs has never been disclosed. On the public record, McNamara's statement that Klein was resigning still stands.

Klein's latest position is his third in NSA since the House Un-American Activities Committee began scrutinizing him in 1960 following the two cryptographers' defections.

According to Rep. Francis Walter (D-Pa.), chairman of the House committee, Klein's ouster was sought by Adm. Laurence Frost, head of the NSA. But Central Intelligence director Allen Dulles intervened in Klein's behalf, and he was kept on.

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Under grilling by Walter's committee, Klein made several admissions:

That he had stated on some employment forms he was a graduate of Harvard Law School although he had been enrolled there only one year; also that in some instances he had listed his mother's birthplace in the United States and in Russia in others.

Klein was NSA personnel director when the two defectors were hired.

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